

## TALK OF INSURANCE HOLD-UP.

## RUMORS FOLLOW NAMING OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

**Similar to Those After Legislature's Action  
In the Gas Case Last Winter—Gov.  
Higgins Acted at the Request of  
Supt. Hendricks—The Committee**

ALBANY, July 23.—Republican tongues and for that matter Democratic have been wagging briskly since the extraordinary session of the Legislature adjourned. Last winter, before the St. Vincent gas investigating committee legislation was passed, it was said very pointedly in high Republican and Democratic circles that there would have been no such legislation if the demands for a lump sum made by well known Republicans on certain gasmen in New York city had not been met by a flat refusal. The story repeated at the time was circumstantial in its details.

men in New York city had not been met by a flat refusal. The story repeated at the time was circumstantial in its details and bore all the earmarks of truth.

Since Thursday, when Gov. Higgins' extraordinary session adjourned, similar stories to those of last winter have been circulated, only in this instance the demands for a lump sum to prevent a legislative investigation are said to have been made of insurance men. It is added that these demands, like those made upon the gas people, were met with a positive refusal. The story concerning the refusal of insurance men to heed the demands made upon

insurance men. It is added that these demands, like those made upon the gas people, were met with a positive refusal. The story concerning the refusal of insurance men to heed the demands made upon them is just as circumstantial as the gas stories of last winter.

After the refusal of insurance people to honor these alleged demands certain well-known Republicans began to insist, it is declared, upon a legislative investigation as the only panacea for the insurance ills of the State. Last winter it was not the gas men had taken a similar stand that

honor these alleged demands certain well-known Republicans began to insist, it was declared, upon a legislative investigation as the only panacea for the insurance ills of the State. Last winter it was not until the gas men had taken a similar stand that the steps for a gas investigation by the Legislature were taken.

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It is universally conceded by Republicans here that Gov. Higgins gave the Legislature the opportunity to investigate all life insurance companies in the State at the personal request of Superintendent of Insurance Francis Hendricks. Gov. Higgins and Supt. Hendricks are the firmest and most intimate friends. It is not too much to say that both Gov. Higgins and Supt. Hendricks had heard the stories of the demands which had been made on the insurance men and of their refusal to heed them and that these stories had no weight with either Gov. Higgins or Supt. Hendricks. It is not too much to say that the Legislature should have taken prompt action.

much to say that both Gov. Higgins and Supt. Hendricks had heard the stories of the demands which had been made on the insurance men and of their refusal to heed them and that these stories had no weight with either Gov. Higgins or Supt. Hendricks in bringing about legislative action. Supt. Hendricks, in advising Gov. Higgins to give the Legislature an opportunity to investigate the life insurance companies of this State, did so, his intimate friend asserted, in deference to a public clamor "which had been manufactured in certain quarters by certain Republican politicians familiar with that style of car-

Gov. Higgins, it is further asserted, fully acquainted with the methods used within the last month. Both he and Hendricks, their friends said to-day, hope for the best from the joint legislative insurance investigating committee, but that they prefer to await the committee's report.

Gov. Higgins, it is further asserted, is fully acquainted with the methods used within the last month. Both he and Supple Hendricks, their friends said to-day, hope for the best from the joint legislative insurance investigating committee, but that they prefer to await the committee's report next winter before they are ready to believe that the policyholders of all life insurance companies in the State are to receive substantial benefit through a legislative investigating committee.

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One thing can be accepted, it was a veritable rout and that is that certain Republicans will now complacently tell of their interest in the dear policyholders were not at first actuated by any other than "grat motives." When those became futile they howled for a legislative investigation.

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**Senator W. W. Armstrong** of Rochester was chosen chairman of the insurance investigation special committee on account of his friendship with Gov. Higgins. He is a conservative member of the Legislature and is very friendly with George W. Aldridge, the Republican leader of Monroe county, who has just been elevated by the Governor to the State Railroad Commission. This would seem to indicate that Mr. Aldridge and Mr. Higgins are to very intimate in the future.

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Senator Tully is a new member of the Legislature, but was entrusted with the responsibility of the bill to increase the membership of the State Railroad Commission, which was destroyed by the Governor and which also gave Mr. Aldridge his place, so that so far as the majority of the committee is concerned from the upper

responsibility of the bill to increase the membership of the State Railroad Commission, which was desired by the Governor and which also gave Mr. Aldridge his place, so that so far as the majority of the committee is concerned from the up house the Governor has two staunch friends who will undoubtedly investigate the satisfaction of the Governor.

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the satisfaction of the Governor.

Senator Riordan and Senator Frawley are the minority members of the Senate Insurance Committee. Senator Riordan is the Democratic member of the insurance investigation special committee, is slated for political oblivion after his present term expires, so he will not endeavor to inject partisan policy into the investigation.

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The Insurance Superintendent Induced Governor to Let the Legislature Act

Republicans of consequence at the Hotel Manhattan admitted last night that it was Francis Hendricks, State Superintendent of Insurance, who induced Gov. Higgins to send to the Legislature the special message.

Some of Gov. Higgins's friends, as well as the Governor himself, had believed along that Supt. Hendricks had full power to bring to light all wrongdoing and doubt

Some of Gov. Higgins's friends, as well as the Governor himself, had believed along that Supt. Hendricks had full power to bring to light all wrongdoing and doubt the wisdom of an investigation by a joint legislative committee, because of the personal temptations and so on and so forth. Supt. Hendricks, however, in deference to certain demands for a legislative inquiry, influenced Gov. Higgins to change his attitude in the matter.

It is true, it was furthermore said, that

It is true, it was furthermore said, that demands had come from other quarters for a legislative investigation, "but," it was added, "these came from the usual quarters and were made for graft purporting after certain demands to stave off a legislative investigation had been peremptorily refused."

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The keenest interest was expressed by Republicans and Democrats in finding out who is to be the counsel for the legislative committee. The Senate members of the committee, Armstrong of Rochester, Tully of Canning, Republicans, and Blanton of New York City, Democrats, were all in the race as to the name of the lawyer.

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committee. The Senate members of the committee, Armstrong of Rochester, Tully of Oswego, Republicans, and Riker of New York City, were all in the car as to the name of the lawyer.

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